

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 4th May 2023

Present: Mark Bignell MkB Chairman & Paragliding Representative
 Andy Webster AW Media & PR Officer
 Arthur Bentley AB Parascending Representative
 Liz Lawrence LL Rules Officer
 Myrianthe Ewington ME Vice Chair
 William Lawrence WL Squad Manager

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	Apologies were received from DC.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	Minutes dated 6 th April 2023 were proposed by LL and seconded by AB.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	MkB will draft out an Accuracy Panel report for the BHPA Exec meeting, and circulate to the Panel for comment.	MkB / Panel
4	Finances	
4.1	MkB advised that the 2022/3 final accounts need to be issued a.s.a.p.	JP / AW
5	Classic Accuracy	
5.1	For the French Grand Prix AB advised that there will be practise flying from Tuesday to Friday, and camping on site.	
	Following a meeting with the Rutland Club (RAS), AB reported that RAS were worried because what we were planning did not meet the conditions of the contact between RAS and the Army.	
5.2	AB queried the organisation for the Classic Nationals, and it was assumed that AB would do the domestic arrangements, and DC would do the paperwork.	AB / DC
5.3	AB advised that Jackie Smith will be the VIP guest at the trophy presentation. AB to invite the military to the BBQ.	AB
5.4	LL confirmed that she has the classic team returnable trophy and will organise a base for it to allow further engraving.	LL
6	Classic Accuracy Squad	
6.1	There were no comments on DC's report	
7	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
7.1	WL advised that the April Squad training did not take place due to a poor weather forecast, and there proved to be only a small flying weather window.	
7.2	WL proposed using South Cerney for the May training camp, and being a tow site this would offer good practise for the nationals the following week at Norfolk.	
7.3	It was noted that the 2023 Worlds Local Regulations state a team size of four pilots, including a minimum of one of each sex. AW felt that the event would be over subscribed and so there will be no individual places available. WL requested an increase funding for pilots to £600	

	due to the reduced number of team pilots. WL also queried if a reserve pilot was required, and if required what sex should the reserve be. Panel to check the selection criteria wording on a reserve and discuss at the next panel meeting along with funding.	Panel
8	Paragliding Nationals	
8.1	MkB and AW advised that they had both ordered trophies / medals for the nationals! AW advised that the trophies / medals he had ordered could be used in 2024 with some further engraving. MkB has included medals for the Scouts.	
8.2	MkB advised that he had not promised a tandem flight for the Scouts, but it was noted that AS, MtB, Billy Elliston and Gabby are tandem rated. ME advised that Billy Elliston may not register for the competition, however, he enjoys helping out and flying tandems. MkB to check if equipment can be in place for tandem flights.	MkB
8.3	MkB advised that the Scouts will prepare sandwiches for all officials and pilots, and this is included in the entry fee.	
8.4	MkB advised that he had given official permission to Cherry McMahon and Don Bodill to catch up flights. Permission had not been given to Jason Harper as he could only attend one day. LL to check if Katie Sykes requires permission to miss a day.	LL
8.5	MkB advised that he had chased up the Norfolk Club about their members attending the event, and will issue a reminder to pilots to get their entry in before the entry fee goes up.	MkB
8.6	LL advised that AS had confirmed the provision of tow strops.	
8.7	AW to request that returnable trophies are returned engraved.	AW
8.8	MkB to check that there will be sufficient weak links for the competition.	MkB
9	Judging	
9.1	LL advised that she was seeking clarification on the changed wording for the insufficient height rule, as the current wording is not very clear.	LL
9.2	LL to check how WPRS points will be worked out for pilots in the knock-out system as part of the formula uses a pilot's score, and knocked-out pilots will be carrying maximum scores.	LL
10	Development	
10.1	MkB requested Panel comments on the sponsorship document he had prepared.	Panel
11	Equipment	
11.1	AW advised that Chris Haynes had told him that the Weckbecker pad is due for delivery soon.	
12	AOB	
12.1	Further to AW's proposal to review goals and the paragliding training system following the recent Whatsapp discussion, MkB made the following comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A training system is required for coaches. - The number of accuracy pilots and clubs needs to be increased. Green Dragons is really the only club promoting accuracy. - AS development and sponsorship will increase the visibility of accuracy. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If accuracy is presented well, interest will be generated. XC pilots have had a go at accuracy in the past when a target has been put down at their local site. - A vision and action plan is required, and should be put on the agenda for the next panel meeting. <p>WL made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need to attract younger people into accuracy. - Pilots need to be introduced to accuracy as early as possible. - Squad involvement with other clubs, which he is currently pursuing, may encourage participation with accuracy. <p>AW made the following comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most paraglider pilots are not interested in accuracy, and we need to be realistic about the how many pilots we can attract into accuracy. <p>LL made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any interest shown in accuracy is not translating into attendance at competitions. - Clubs need an AS to promote accuracy. 	
12.2	AW confirmed that he had received the BAC final accounts from ME, and had passed them onto Jonathan Parkinson.	
12.3	MkB to write an email to Chris Haynes about joining the panel.	MkB
12.4	LL suggested that rather than separating the squad Whatsapp group in to paragliding and classic groups, separate squad and accuracy pilots groups be made. It was noted that Whatsapp notifies everyone of a message, and you can check who has read it, whereas this is not the case with the facebook group. It was suggested that the squad Whatsapp messages start with either 'Paragliding squad read this' or 'Classic Squad read this'.	
12.5	<p>Regarding the Panel procuring a winch or parallel towing system, the following queries would need resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why is a towing system currently required? - When would it be used? - How will it be paid for? - Where will it be kept? - Who will maintain it? - Who will transport it to sites? - Will electric winches become cheaper in the future? <p>On the basis that the parallel towing system is cheaper and easier to maintain, WL to enquire about the cost of a system. It was noted that there are five people currently qualified to operate the parallel towing system.</p>	WL
	Meeting closed at 21.30	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 1 st June 2023.	

Media & PR Officer Report

April meeting actions:

7.4 Website now requests that pilots complete the Affidavit and Waiver forms electronically for the paragliding nationals. I will chase those up who have already registered.

7.6 Trophies on order for both nationals, and recycled trophies used where possible.

Financial:

- £9,650 in the BHPA Accuracy Panel account.
- All fees and payments associated with the March PG Squad Training and April PA Squad Training are complete.
- MtB has been reimbursed for the IPAD and case.
- Tyron Paul has paid £600 of his £1000 loan so far.
- Parki is aiming to complete the final accounts by next weekend

Other roles:

Skywings, Acting Secretary, Website, Leagues, Trophies ticking over as usual.

Proposal:

In view of the recent Whatsapp discussion on the paragliding accuracy pilot performance, I would propose that we:

- Review our goals listed in the Operating Procedures
- Review our training system

BHPA Monthly Report May 23 - Parascending

1. Dave and I attended a meeting at Rutland at the end of the first day of the Squad weekend sessions (15-16 Apr).

2. A second meeting was scheduled for Tue 18 Apr between myself, Dave, Mick Roach and the RUS Chairman Hugh.

The conclusion at the end of the meeting was that the Classic nationals would be held at South Cerney.

3. While I was operating one of the RUS winches, Mark Shaw (BHPA Tech Officer) came to chat with me and during our talk I told him that we would be back there in Aug for our comp and that I might have a job for him. This seemed to please him although I didn't explain that I was thinking about the role of the trophy presentation.

4. I later thought of another possibility for this role and at the Birdwings accuracy weekend (Saturday) I told Dave that I had 2 people in mind to be offered this role; Mark Shaw and JACKIE SMITH. I received an email from Dave the following day stating that Dave had been in contact with Jackie and she had delightfully accepted to fulfil this role.

5. I have also notified Andy Cowley of the change of venue for our comp.

5. The French Grand Prix is now getting close 10-11 June. I will be contacting Jacques for any details including confirmation of trying days prior to the competition.

Regards,

Arthur

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report May 2023

April squad weekend at Rutland was very good weekend with flying on both days. Saturday 70 flights, Sunday 62 flights.

May is planned for South Cerney on 13/14th

Twelve pilots now registered for PA squad (plus 3 from April)

Following dates and sites discussed

May, South Cerney. Agreed with Arthur Bentley

Following the Rutland weekend, due to wear and tear on the winches, Rutland announced that they would not be willing to host the PA squad in the future. This now leaves only one site available, South Cerney

EPAC meeting rule wording changes made and circulated to group via Nikki (secretary). Chased for response, still no feedback. Rules updated with suggested wording provided as no objections or feedback can only be assumed as acceptance.

Nationals

Arthur and myself met with Rutland representatives 15/16th to discuss the Nationals and further followed up during the following week. The mutual decision was Rutland will be a back-up to South Cerney. See email previously sent to panel members.

Documents for the PA Nationals, draft documents on Panel dropbox will be further updated post meeting at Rutland Airsports and the decision to move to Birdwings Airsports

Chris Haynes has accepted an invite to be a Launch Marshall

Jackie Smith has accepted an invite to present trophies.

Regards

Dave

Paragliding Squad Manager Report

Nothing much from me.

Last squad training canceled due to weather. Next one will be weekend before nationals.

Wanted clarification on rules change allowing for knock out at cat 1, where to find it so I can go through it myself or an explanation of how it will actually be implemented.

Rules Officer report May 23

Actions taken:

- Updated rules for classic nationals completed and published (as per action from previous minutes)
- Updated classic judging code to align with agree rule changes (see also point to raise, below)
- Reviewed new section 7 documents published by FAI and sought clarification on a couple of points via Basecamp

Points to raise:

- Chris has requested 6 tow strops for the Paragliding Nationals as provided by AS for the BAC events to speed up the launch point. I have already made this request via the panel WhatsApp and AS has responded but Chris emailed me a couple of days ago and asked me to check this again in the meeting.

Also – not related to my role – can we confirm and chase up holders of the returnable trophies so we can ensure they are present and engraved for the competitions.

Liz